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## DILUTED ACETIC ACID AS A SOLVENT FOR EXTRACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

By L. E. SAYRE, University of Kansas.

It is well known, perhaps, that alcohol and water in different proportions is the common solvent for the extraction of various medicinal substances. Its solvent action and range of application is also familiar. On account of its antiseptic qualities it is perhaps all that can be desired for holding in solution organic matter very prone to decomposition. But for many reasons it would be desirable to supplant this solvent in many cases. The stimulant quality of the alcohol in many medicinal tinctures and the enormous price which the pharmacist and physician has to pay for the spirit—the excessive cost being largely due to our internal-revenue tax, which does not discriminate between the common liquor dealer and the physician or scientist—is also a drawback to its universal application. If, therefore, an inert and inexpensive solvent could be substituted for alcohol, even if that substitute be very limited in its application, it would be exceedingly desirable. I have accordingly made several experiments, using acetic acid and water, of various proportions, to ascertain whether a number of medicinal preparations could not be advantageously made equal in quality to that of alcohol and water. While I have not completed the work, I feel safe in saying that in very many cases the pharmacist and physician may well use in his laboratory the solvent I have named as a substitute. Especially is this true in the manufacture of medicinal extracts, such as belladonna, hyoscyamus, aconite, etc. (Specimen of extract of belladonna exhibited, and comments made thereon.)

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## A NEW AECIDIUM OF PECULIAR HABIT.

By M. A. CARLETON.

During two summers I have collected specimens of an aecidium on *Ruellia ciliosa*, which, so far as I can discover, is yet undescribed. The uredo and teleutospores of *Puccinia lateripes*, B. & Rav., on the same host, is well known. This species may prove to be the aecidium stage of *Puccinia lateripes*. The species is of very peculiar habit, being found on the stem (or root) almost invariably, at or below the surface of the ground. Hence it is easily overlooked. I discovered it on dead stems of the previous year's growth while digging for root-stalks to be transplanted in the greenhouse for experiments with the *Puccinia lateripes* above mentioned. Even at that date, the cups could be easily distinguished. Further examination will probably reveal the presence of perennial mycelium in the root-stalk of the host, and thus add another one to the list of perennial uredinae.